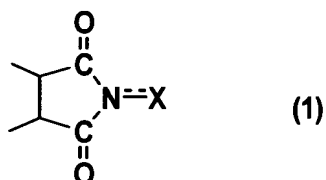


ABSTRACT

A reaction product and an imide compound can be efficiently separated from a reaction mixture obtained by reacting a substrate in the presence of the imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group

by (A1) a solvent-crystallization step for crystallizing the imide compound with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether and water, (A2) a cooling-crystallization step for crystallizing the reaction product by cooling, or (B) an extraction step for distributing the reaction product into a phase of a water-insoluble solvent and the imide compound into a phase of an aqueous solvent, respectively by using the aqueous solvent containing at least water and the water-insoluble solvent separable from the aqueous solvent. Further, the imide compound and the metal catalyst can be efficiently separated from a mixture containing the imide compound and the metal catalyst by (C) a solvent-crystallization step for crystallizing the imide compound by using a solvent for crystallization, (D) an

adsorption step for adsorbing the metal catalyst by an  
adsorption treatment, or (E) an extraction step for  
distributing the imide compound into a phase of a  
water-insoluble solvent and the metal catalyst into a phase  
5 of an aqueous solvent, respectively by using the aqueous  
solvent containing at least water and the water-insoluble  
solvent separable from the aqueous solvent.